IN THE CLAIMS:

1-19 **(Cancel)**

20. **(New)** A method of testing an airbag module for past exposure to water, said testing comprising the steps of inspecting, by means of Inductively Coupled Plasma techniques, a swab taken from said airbag module and determining from said inspecting step whether the airbag module has been exposed to water in the past.

21. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 20, comprising inspecting for deposits of a metal.

22. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal comprises the step of inspecting for cations.

23. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal quantifies the amount of metal deposited.

24. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal quantifies the amount of metal deposited for a given surface area of airbag module.

25. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal comprises the step of taking the swab from a surface of said airbag module by applying a solvent to said surface.

26. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the solvent is 5% hydrochloric acid.

27. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal further comprises the step of agitating said swab with 1% lanthanum chloride solution.

28. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal further comprises the step of inspecting the mixture of 1 % lanthanum chloride solution and swab by means of said Inductively Coupled Plasma so as to determine the quantity of a deposited metal present in said mixture.

29. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said swab is taken from the surface of said airbag module which cannot be conveniently wiped clean.

30. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said surface is a surface of or adjacent a gas generator of said airbag module.

31. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said surface is a surface of a reaction can of said airbag module.

32. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the water exposure test comprises the further step of determining a threshold quantity of a deposited metal which, if found on said airbag module, indicates an unacceptable risk of said module having been damaged through water exposure.

33. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said deposited metal is calcium or sodium.